

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 and 7-20 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 7, and 13 have been amended. New claims 19 and 20 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants believe the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 16-18 and the indicated allowability of claims 2-4, 7, and 10-13 if rewritten in independent form. Those claims have not been rewritten because Applicants believe independent claims 1 and 5 from which they depend are allowable as amended.

New claim 19 is original claim 7 written in independent form. New claim 20 is original claim 13 written in independent form. Thus, claims 19 and 20 are allowable.

Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Inoue et al. (US 6,400,531).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 as amended is novel and patentable over Inoue et al. because, for instance, Inoue et al. does not teach or suggest a first protective film formed between a second protective film and a writing unit, which is formed between the first protective film and a retrieving unit. In Inoue et al., the protective films 41 and 42 are disposed on the opposing surfaces to the medium of the slider. This will not allow the electromagnetic conversion element 2 (for writing) to be formed between the protective film 41 and the MR element 3 (for retrieving).

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1, and claims 8 and 9 depending therefrom, are novel and patentable over Inoue et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 5 as amended is novel and patentable over Inoue et al. because, for instance, Inoue et al. does not teach or suggest first and second protective films that are formed in a first direction that intersects with an air bearing surface of the magnetic head. As the Examiner notes, the protective films 41 and 42 in Inoue et al. are formed in a direction that is parallel to the air bearing surface of the magnetic head.

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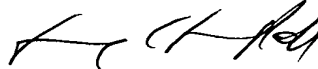
For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 5, and claims 14 and 15 depending therefrom, are novel and patentable over Inoue et al.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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